School of Management Studies

BABA GHULAM SHAH BADSHAH UNIVERSITY RAJOURI (J&K)

SYNOPSIS

FOR

Ph.D REGISTRATION

Proposed Research Topic**:-Impact Analysis of MGNREGA in District Rajouri (J&K State)-A Case Study**

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Introduction

Rural development is a strategy designed to improve the economic and social life of the specific group of people, the rural poor. It involves the extension of benefits of development to the poorest among those who seek a livelihood in rural areas, such as small farmers and landlords. In India, despite economic growth, poverty and unemployment continue to be the major economic problems with 75 per cent of the rural population living below poverty line and 74 per cent unemployed population hailing from rural India (Sanyal, 2011). India after the inception of independence realized the urgent importance of developing the villages and the vast majority of toiling millions who inhabit them. After Independence a good number of programmes for rural development have been initiated by the Government of india for the overall development of the rural people like Community Development programme (1952),National Extension Services (1953),Panchayati Raj (1959),Rural Works programme (RWP) (1961),Crash Scheme for Rural Employment (CSRE) and Food for Work Program (FFWP) (1970),National Rural Employment Program (NREP) and the Rural Labour Employment Guarantee Program (REGP) (1980),Jawahar Rojgar Yojana (JRY), the Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), and the Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) (1990),Sampurna Grameen Rojgar Yojana (SGRY) (2001).Reviews of these programmes, however, had shown several perennial weaknesses: they include (i) low programme coverage; (ii) more than 50 per cent beneficiaries not from most needy group; (iii) bureaucracy dominated planning; little participation of community in planning; (iv) work to women lower than stipulated norm of 30 per cent; (v) only 16-29 days employment provided to household; (vi) assets created not durable; and (vii) corruption..[ARC 2006]. In an attempt to improve up on the weaknesses of the previous programs, the Government of India launched the National Rural Employment Guarantee Program (NREGP).The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), presently known as **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act** (MGNREGA) is an Indian job guarantee scheme, enacted by legislation on August 25, 2005.It was launched on February 2, 2006 from Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh and initially covered 200 "poorest" districts of the country. The Act was implemented in phased manner – 130 districts were added in 2007–08. With its spread over 625 districts across the country, the programme has the potential to increase the purchasing power of rural poor, reduce distress migration and to create useful assets in rural India. Around one-third of the stipulated work force is women. The scheme provides a legal guarantee for one hundred days of employment in every financial year to adult members of

any rural household willing to do public work-related unskilled manual work at the statutory minimum wage of ₹120 (US$2.27) per day in 2009 prices. It also fosters social and gender equality as 23% workers under the scheme are Scheduled Castes, 17% Scheduled Tribes and 50% women. In 2010–11, 41 million households were employed on NREGA worksites. It is designed with the following unique features; a) it introduced a rights based framework, b) it introduced a legal guarantee of work as opposed to a government programme which could be withdrawn by a government at will, c) time bound action to fulfill guarantee of work within 15 days of demand for work, d) incentive structure for performance (central government funds 90% of costs of generating employment), e) disincentive for non performance (unemployment allowance to be paid within 15 days if work not provided within 15 days is a state government liability) , f) demand based resource availability and , g) accountability of public delivery system through social audits. The MGNREGA achieves twin objectives of rural development and employment. The MGNREGA stipulates that works must be targeted towards a set of specific rural development activities such as: water conservation and harvesting, afforestation, rural connectivity, flood control and protection such as construction and repair of embankments, etc. Digging of new tanks/ponds, percolation tanks and construction of small check dams are also given importance. The employers are given work such as land leveling, tree plantation, etc. MGNREGA has moved on to innovative initiatives like financial inclusion, social security provisioning for unorganized workers and identification of the poor. The law was initially called the **National Rural Employment Guarantee Act** (NREGA) but was renamed on 2nd October 2009.

MGNREGA in Jammu and Kashmir State

The Act (MGNREGA) was extended to the state in 2007 and the implementation of NREGA is being carried out through Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme(REGS).As envisaged in the Act, the Jammu and Kashmir Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has been formulated on the basis of the Guidelines issued by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India.In J&K state,the implementation of MGNREGA has been done in various phases. . In the first phase, three districts, viz. Poonch, Doda and Kupwara were brought within the ambit of this Scheme which has been extended to the districts of Anantnag and Jammu during phase- II. As envisaged in the Act, the Scheme is being implemented on a cost sharing basis between the Centre and the State in the ratio of 90:10.In District Rajouri MGNREGA has been implemented in third phase that is, in the year 2008 and has been extended to the various blocks in the same year.

Review of Literature

After independence various studies have been done on various rural development programmes in India. According to **Singh (1988)** in his paper entitled "Socio-economic impact of Integrated Rural Development Programme on Weaker Sections in Punjab" has concluded that the Integrated Rural Development Programme is showing its impact on the weaker sections served by it, **Fan, Shenggen, Peter Hezell and S.K. Thorat(2000)** has shown the impact of public expenditure on rural poverty in India. The direct and indirect effects of different types of Government expenditure on rural poverty and productivity growth in India,**Basu etal(2005)** states that MGNREGA can be thought of as a policy to boost rural income, stabilize agricultural production and reduce the population pressure on urban areas, **Hirway, Saluja and Yadav(2005)** conducted a study on the impact of NREGA in a village in sabarkantha district of Gujarat in which they examined the multiplier effect of MNREGS on household production, income and employment and the village economy, **Amir ullah Khan,MR Saluja(2006)** studied the impact of NREGA on rural livelihoods. According to them NREGA has enhanced people's livelihood on a sustained basis, by developing the economic and social infrastructure in rural areas, **Dre‟ze and Lal (2007)** writing about NREGS in Rajasthan have come to the conclusion that Rajasthan comes first in terms of employment generation per rural household under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA). In 2006-07, the average rural household in Rajasthan‟s six "NREGA Districts" worked for as many as 77 days under this programme, earning nearly Rs.4,000 in the process. This is an unprecedented achievement in the history of social security in India, **Lakshman (2007)** said that MGNREGA is the first legislation that compels the state to provide a social safety net for the poorest people of this country and seeks to address the urgent issues of hunger and rural distress that afflict large parts of India**,Mathur,Lalit(2007)** stated that NREGA has impacted the Poor, large numbers of unlettered households have made effort to come forward to register, **Roy(2007)** states that MGNREGA is the need of the hour to address the economic constraints of such a huge population in a sustainable manner, **Aakella and kidambi,(2007),** said it is better to throw the money into a drain than to put it in the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, **Economic Times (2007)** has reported about the adverse impact of the NREGS as the farm activities in states of Andhra Pradesh and Kerala and that this scheme should be implemented only in least agricultural sector, **Shah,(2008)** states that MGNREGA comes out as a potentially positive force to change the power structures working in the rural areas of India in favour of the poor.

Justification of the study

Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir state is located in the foothills of Peer-Panjal range of Himalyas.The district has an area of 2630 sq. meter with a total population of 6,19,266 lakhs as per 2011 census, and out of these male population is 3,32,424 and female population is 2,86,842. Out of the total population, 1,33,843 population is below poverty line. Since in district Rajouri, not much research work has been carried out on MGNREGA and secondly the scholar is well versed with the area. It is on account of these reasons that the present study entitled ***"Impact Analysis of MGNREGA in District Rajouri(J&K State)-A Case Study "*** will be conducted.

Objectives of the study:-

The present research aims to assess the impact analysis of MGNREGA on district Rajouri of Jammu and Kashmir state, with the following objectives:

1. To assess the extent of additional employment generation through MGNREGA to the rural poor.

2. To examine the impact of MGNREGA on the rural upliftment in the study area.

3. To assess the deficiencies of the programme and the constraints as experienced by the beneficiaries.

4. To make suggestions for strengthening the implementation strategy of MGNREGA.

Hypotheses

The above objectives will be achieved through the following hypotheses:

1. Benefits under MGNREGA programme have not percolated to the lowest strata.

2. MGNREGA has helped the programme functionaries rather than beneficiaries.

Research Methodology

As far as approach to research in the present study is concerned, it is a case study in which an attempt will be made to study the impact of MGNREGA on the different parameters of the rural people in the selected blocks of District Rajouri. Out of the nine blocks of the district Rajouri, the study will be conducted in two blocks namely Sunderbani and Doongi. These two blocks have also been selected with a view to analyse the impact of MGNREGA on rural poor of far-off block (Sundarbani 75 kms away from District H.Q Rajouri) and of the near block (Doongi 16 kms away from District H.Q Rajouri). To achieve the set objectives laid down, both primary and secondary data will be used. The primary data will be collected through well designed questionnaire. Besides questionnaire, personnel interview method shall also be used for collecting the desired information. The secondary data will be collected from the published reports, magazines etc, and from various official sources.

Sample design

a) Selection of district/study area.

District Rajouri has been selected for the present study because-

1. It is one of the backward and hilly districts of Jammu and Kashmir state situated on actual line of control.

2. Not much research work has been carried out on the impact of MGNREGA to the rural poor in the study area.

b) Selection of villages and beneficiaries

For the selection of villages, a list of villages has been obtained from Assistant Commissioner Development Rajouri. For the conduct of study, 12 villages will be selected from Sundarbani block out of 42 villages and 8 villages will be selected from Doongi block out of 37 villages through random sampling. Further from each village 12 beneficiaries will be taken for study with a total sample of 240 beneficiaries from 5 different types of works (to be selected through random sampling) executed in these two blocks. The study will cover a period of Five years from 2008-09 to 2012-13 taking 2011-12 as the year of reference. For the analysis of data, statistical techniques will be used as per the requirements of the study.

Proposed chapter plan

In the light of the above objectives of the study and hypotheses laid down, the study shall have following chapter framework:

Chapter 1

Introduction:

Chapter 2

Review of literature:

Chapter 3

Implementation Mechanism of MGNREGA:

Chapter 4

Analysis and Results:

Chapter 5

Conclusion and suggestions:

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